

REMARKS

In a first Office Action dated March 29, 2004 (paper no. 2), the Examiner rejected claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Frailong et al. (U.S. patent no. 6,012,100, hereinafter referred to as "Frailong"). The rejections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Frailong. Claim 1 has been amended to provide an interface device for interfacing a communication network to a peer level service delivery element (SDE) external to the network, which interface device permits a client device to access the SDE via the communication network and obtain services from the SDE. By contrast, Frailong teaches an interface for interfacing the client user itself, for example, a client computer network, and more particularly client personal computers of a LAN, to a communication network, in particular a WAN and more particularly the Internet. That is, claim 1 teaches a peer level element interface, whereas Frailong teaches a client-to-network interface. Claim 1 assumes that the interface between the client device and the network, which is the taught by Frailong, has already been established. Claim 1 then teaches an interface device that allows the client device of Frailong to access, and obtain services from, an SDE that is external to the network and that may, or may not, have an established business relationship with the network. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that the feature of claim 1 of an interface device for interfacing a communication network to a peer level SDE is not taught by Frailong. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claim 1 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 2-21 depend upon allowable claim 1, the applicants respectfully request that claims 2-21 may now be passed to allowance.

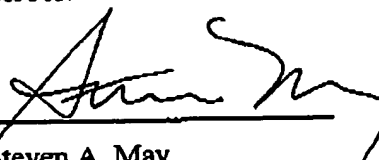
Claim 22 has been amended to provide a method of interfacing a communication network to a peer level service delivery element external to the network, the method comprising providing an interface coupled between the communication network and the peer level service delivery element external to the network, recognizing the service delivery element via the interface, negotiating a security level between the service

delivery element and the communication network, and metering access via the interface by the service delivery element to the communication network in view of the security level. As noted above, Frailong does not teach interfacing a communication network to a peer level service delivery element external to the network. Furthermore, Frailong does not teach the feature of claim 22 of metering of access to the communication network in view of the security level. In the section of Frailong cited by the Examiner as teaching metering, Frailong merely teaches that configuration information and upgrades may be downloaded to the interface device. This is not the same as a metering of access to the communication network in view of the security level. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that Frailong does not teach the limitations of claim 22 and respectfully request that claim 22 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 23-38 depend upon allowable claim 22, the applicants respectfully request that claims 23-38 may now be passed to allowance.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive rejections given by the Examiner and has complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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